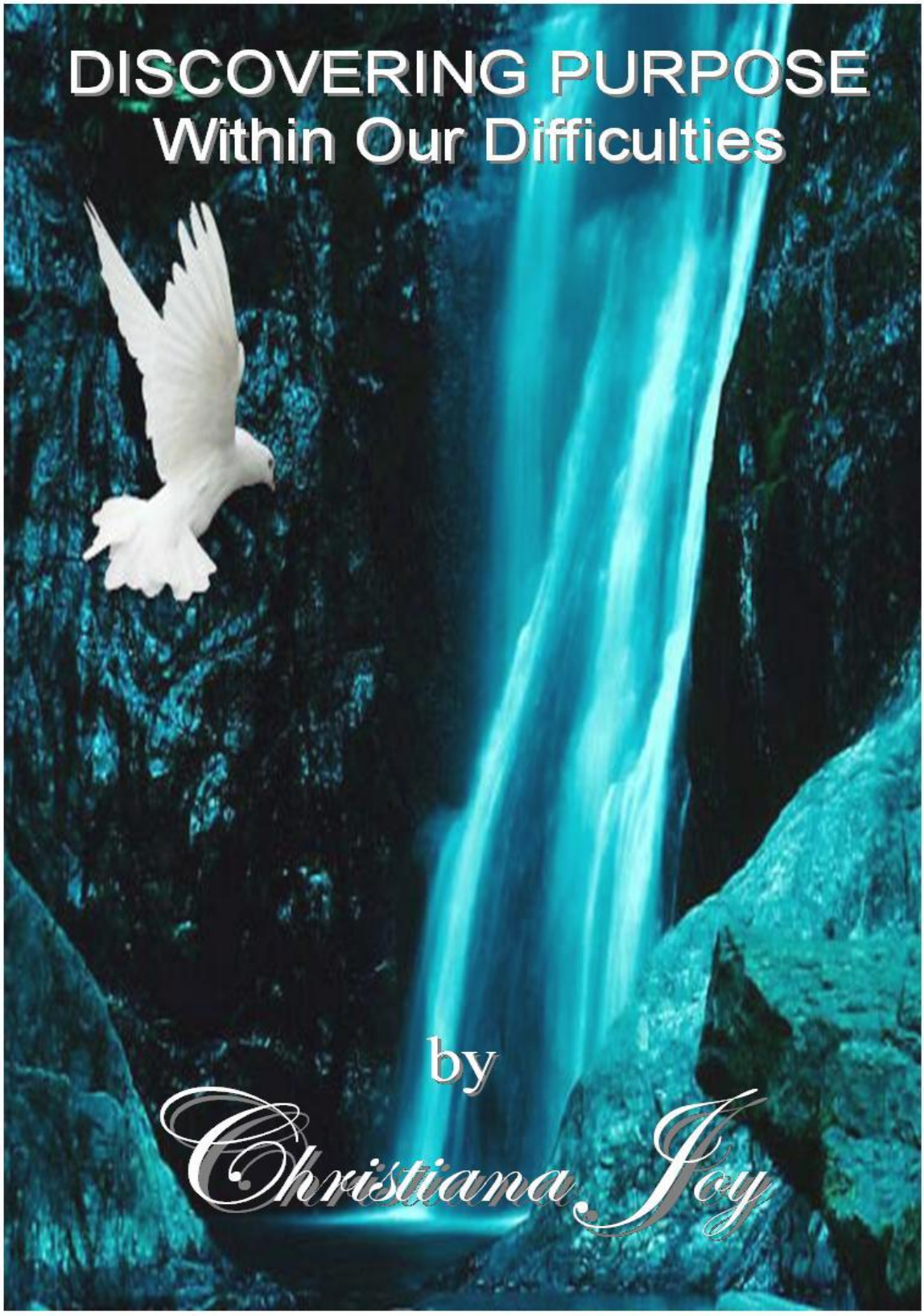

DISCOVERING PURPOSE
Within Our Difficulties
by
Christiana Joy

Which way can we turn to discover purpose within our difficulties?

Today's world is filled to the brim with uncertainty. Catastrophic events seem to be happening all around us in biblical proportions. Many among us understand this reality and are looking for the way to find God and His purposes as the bible seems to be taking shape day by day.

There are so many 'one-way signs' in Christianity today, that it's nearly impossible for people to know which way to turn to find God. When those outside the religious institutions endeavor to find the Lord Jesus, they quickly discover they have a considerable number of valid questions.

This book will quickly zero in on some of the answers to these questions to the best of the author's ability. I'm not a pastor, only a songwriter who has lived most of my life in churches that taught the *bible*, the *rapture*, and how to be *saved* or *born again*. I will try my best to explain the language most Christians understand and many others do not.

Walk with me, if you will, asking God to show you His opinion and to open your heart to His heart as I discuss these things briefly—before it's too late, and we have no more time for discovering God's purposes within our difficulties.

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God is Love

1 John 4:8

(NLT Bible)



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Because of God's tender mercy,
the morning light from heaven
is about to break upon us

Luke 1:78
(The Bible, NLT)

In the same way,
when you see all these things taking place,
you can know that his return is very near,
right at the door.
Mark 13:29
(NLT)

Seek the Lord while you can find him.
Call on him now while he is near.

Isaiah 55:6
(NLT)

The Lord is like a father to his children,
tender and compassionate to those
who [revere] him.

Psalm 103:13
(NLT)

INTRODUCTION

What Purpose Could There Be in Difficulty?

As catastrophic events rock our world and bible prophecy seems to be coming to pass before our eyes, what purpose could there be within our difficulties? Why does God allow such things? And why are we here in this difficult world to begin with?

These are just a few of the valid questions and concerns people express as they watch the world crumbling and their future looking bleak today. As we respond to the overwhelming circumstances within our lives by searching for God and His reasons, we frequently find a substantial amount of confusion concerning God.

The search for God can seem an impossible task. There are huge numbers of religious books, ideas, institutions and people; and all of them seem to be saying, "This is the way." Among my published music videos, one of the most popular songs has been "Crossroad," which tells of the confusion in trying to find the Lord when people encounter so many 'one-way signs.'

The video is hosted on a Christian website. I discovered a couple of months ago that the phrase, "Confused about God" was among their top-ten search engine criteria. People are searching for the Lord; and it is easy to see why they find it difficult to find Him. Chaos in the world can add to the confusion.

There are so many churches, books and even versions of the bible to choose from, it can be difficult to discern the main theme of Christianity. Many people have never experienced, and some have never heard, the basics tenets of the message of Christ: Love; and the gift of eternal life offered—to anyone—with love.

Some words and phrases frequently used in Christian circles can seem very confusing to people from outside the churches. I remember hearing the question, "Have you accepted Jesus Christ?" and being very offended. My immediate internal dialog was: *Why would I be in a church if I hadn't accepted that Jesus was the Christ? Of course I believe He's the Christ.* This isn't what the phrase means. It took me a long time to figure that out.

While the world takes on biblical overtones, and those living within our world can see those overtones, how can we understand the reasons behind what's happening? Where can we search for and find God?

The bible teaches through many quotations located throughout scripture that God has asked us to find him in a particular way. The Word (the Bible) tells us that His way has little to do with being good and more to do with a simple choice we make. The truth is, however, that some might not have the opportunity to finish reading this book before Jesus raptures His people and any such chance is gone.

If we are searching for God, it can help greatly to ask Him to lead us as we investigate and read. Jesus told us to ask His Father God for all we need in His (Jesus') name. He said when we ask in His name, our prayers would be answered.[1]

It is helpful to ask God to reveal who He is and what He's like; and to reveal who Jesus is and what He's all about. It is also helpful to ask God to reveal His love for us. Remember, as difficult as this world can be, God loves us. He's offered us the tremendous gift of eternal life. All we have to do is reach out and accept His gift of love.

If you'd like to begin reading the Bible, I recommend starting with the New Testament which is found near the middle of the entire Holy Bible. Today's Bible is broken down into two segments called the Old Testament (written before Jesus' birth) and New Testament (written after Jesus' birth).

Each Testament is comprised of writings or letters which we call 'books' of the Bible. These books are broken down by chapters and then numbered verses. The chapter and verse markings were added for the ease of finding specific quotations long after the original letters and writings were compiled. The Bible itself was written over thousands of years by many different authors. All have been attributed as inspired and as such authored by the Spirit of God.[2]

I'd like to recommend beginning reading from the *Gospel of John* through to the end of the New Testament, *Revelation*. The first four books of the New Testament are called Gospels. They each tell the story of the life of Christ from the perspectives of four different writers. The Gospel of John is the fourth of these books. *John* can be somewhat ethereal. If you prefer a more straight-up approach, I recommend beginning with the book of *Matthew*, then skipping *Mark*, *Luke* and *John* (the first time through), and reading through the rest of the New Testament.

It can be surprising what the Bible has to say and its relevance to our times. Reading the Bible from cover to cover is not the best way to understand what it has to convey. Prayerfully reading the Word and beginning each session by asking God to help us understand what we read is recommended.

There are many good versions of the Bible available today. Choosing a version can be difficult. Finding one that is a *translation* rather than a *paraphrase* is the best way to learn what was originally said. Choosing a Bible that is easy to understand is also helpful. Several versions are quoted throughout this booklet. They are listed on the copyright page which is located just after the title page.

May God walk with you and guide you as you search for Him. Finding God is a highly rewarding endeavor. The rewards He gives are eternal and the discoveries concerning Him can be phenomenal. Don't give up. God is a wonderful, lovable Person. Getting to know Him is well worth the search.

CHAPTER ONE

We All Seem to Be in a Frustrating Funk

Nowhere is it more obvious that the world is crumbling than in the news. If it hasn't already happened, it seems it's about to happen. I've heard so much bad news lately I've almost had to turn off the news entirely, just to keep my sanity intact.

Yet the Bible tells us that as these very things begin to happen we're only experiencing the initial 'birth pangs' of what's eventually going to happen.[1] This period of time to come is called the *Tribulation*. It's an old word related to the word *trouble*. According to Jesus, it will be a "time of trouble such as the world has never seen nor will [this level of trouble] ever be seen again."[2]

This *trouble* (or *Tribulation*) is a serious reality on the verge of happening. Some have already lost houses and lands, livelihoods and even the lives of friends or family. Yet this is nothing compared to what will happen just after Jesus *raptures*[37] (or *catches up* into the clouds[36]) those people who know Him.[3]

The truth is those who know Christ could be raptured at any second. This is most strongly evidenced by the fulfillment of Bible prophecy in current events.[4]

Most, if not all, of the things that the Bible prophesied would happen *just before* Jesus raptures His church have already happened. Much of what was prophesied would happen *just after* the rapture is about to occur according to what newscasters and scientists everywhere are saying. This includes certain technological advances. All of these things were foretold sometimes far more than 2,000 years ago.

The signs of the times[4] are everywhere. Jesus told us we cannot know the day or the hour He will come.[5] But He also said we could know the signs that He's almost ready to rapture His people.[6]

One thing is certain, as this world fades and things crumble, I want to be prepared to meet God face to face. Only God can judge. Yet the Bible tells me I can know He will judge me in a way that will be at least somewhat favorable.[7] According to the Bible, that judgment will only be partially based on what I've done.[8] Getting there in the first place requires something entirely different than being a good person.[5] It requires trusting someone who has already done the good for us[9] (and who has already taken the penalty for the things we've done wrong[10])—that Person is Christ Jesus.[41]

Today many people panic as they see things starting to go awry in biblical ways. But the truth is, the time we have is *probably* all the time we need to receive our 'ticket to heaven' when Jesus returns. According to the Bible, what we need to do is trust God for that ticket; but we must trust in a specific way. Jesus Himself said the words.[11]

The Bible indicates that what we *must* do is imperative.[12] It'll make the difference between complete success and utter failure.[13] It will make the difference between life, eternal life, and death.[14 & 41]

It has to do with a debt we owe God for the things we've done wrong. Jesus paid that debt for us. In fact, He paid the debt for everyone on earth.[38] The concept is found in a story given below. The story is adapted from a course I took in showing people how to be *born again*.[15]

The story is this…

Let's say I had a bill being collected for several trillion dollars. Without paying that bill, the collectors were going to take away every asset I held. My assets totaled just under $100 billion. But everything I owned wouldn't bring in nearly enough to pay my debt. With all I had earned in this life, and as rich as I had been, I was still looking at the prospect of absolute poverty. Just as I was ready to give up entirely, in love and compassion, God looked down, saw my situation and made me an offer. He offered to pay my bill for me—free and clear.

Most people believe the criteria for getting into heaven is what we've done or how good we've been. The Bible teaches that there is nothing good we can do that will get us into heaven.[17] It is the *gift* of God not a result of the good things we do.[18] His gift is our *new birth* (or being born as a child of God) through Christ Jesus.[19]

Again and again the Bible says eternal life is God's gift. "The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord,"[14 (KJV)] "not by works of righteousness (good things) which we have done,"[15 (KJV)] "it is by grace (an undeserved gift) you are saved, through faith,"[16] "it is the gift of God, not a result of (good) works,"[16 (NASB®)] "but to as many as received Him (Jesus), He *gave* the right to become children of God."[17 (NASB®)]

According to the Bible, all of us have a huge debt waiting for us. Each of the things we do wrong is like a line item on a statement or bill. Each and every wrong we do results in death.[16] "*For the wages of sin* (anything wrong that we do) *is death.*"[14 (KJV)] The Bible also tells us that God paid our bill for us.[38] In fact, He came to earth, became a human being[39] and went to the cross just for this purpose.[40]

When Jesus died on the cross, His last words were what we translate into English as the words, "*It is finished*." In the original language the New Testament used, the word could also be translated, "It is paid" or "The debt is paid." According to my teachers, it was an accounting term used in Jesus' day the way we use a stamp denoting when a statement or bill has been "*Paid in Full*."

This is what the Bible tells us Jesus did for us in His death on the cross. He came to earth specifically for this purpose.[22] He came in order to pay our statement or bill (debt) for all that we've done wrong. He took our place so that we would not have to die[23] (so that if we accept God's gift we will live eternally after our physical death).[24] The Lord offers us a blank check to pay for our bill.[8] This is true no matter what we've done.

It doesn't matter if we've done a little wrong, a moderate amount of wrong, or if we've done a great deal of wrong. When we accept the gift of eternal life, our slate is wiped clean.

This is what the word says we *must* do to escape the things to come[25] and find ourselves in heaven once the rapture or death occurs.[26] In order to be *born again*[13] all we need to do is reach out and accept, through honest prayer, the very extravagant gift Jesus offered us from the cross.[27]

Once we are born again,[19] we will continue to grow in God and learn to live the way He showed us to live. Like a Father, He will lead us in our growth.[20] Growing in Christ is an important part of walking with the Lord.[21]

God offers every person on earth spiritual riches in Christ
Jesus; His wealth given with love and concern straight from the heart of God. All we have to do is accept His gift of love.

The Bible also teaches us we must accept Jesus as our *Lord*.[28] This means asking Him to be the '*boss of our lives*.' There is a danger in simply repeating a phrase. A rote repetition of words isn't the same as true belief. Rather, God asks for an honest love, our hearts reaching out to accept His gift through prayer.

Once we receive His gift, we are not "made perfect" (or matured) by what we do.[31] God helps us to become mature as we walk with Him.[32] Obedience is important. Yet as we grow in Christ, our life should also become a precious relationship with our Father, rather than simply a performance of good deeds.

Now would be an excellent time to ask God for His gift. Praying, asking God in Jesus' name to help us understand how to receive His gift of eternal life, is helpful. There's no need to repeat any words
I could give you. Your own heart and words are far more important to God.

It is important, however, to ask for His gift of eternal life[33] and to let Jesus know you'd like Him to be Lord (boss) of your life.[26] Asking God to send His Holy Spirit[4] to live within us[31] is also key. God will help us grow to maturity as His child when we ask Him.[30] We all make mistakes as we grow. Any child does. Even so, He offers each of us a blank check covering all failures. He's a generous Father[34] and a powerful Help[35] when it comes to such things.

He waits right now, ready to offer anyone who will accept His gift the extravagant reality of a beautiful eternal life. Who wouldn't want such a reality?

CHAPTER TWO

On the Edge of Eternity

When I was 18 years old and relatively new to church attendance, I didn't believe, and in fact made fun of, the idea that the world was close to the time of the rapture. I said what most people have been saying… until just recently. I told one couple in my church, "Since the beginning of time, everyone's been saying Jesus was about to return. They've been saying this since He left 2,000 years ago."

The man looked surprised and then told me that my very statement was in the Bible; and that my words were used as an example (and verification) of what people would be saying when the time came for Christ to rapture His people.[1] I said I didn't believe him. He gave me the chapter and verse. My words are there—almost word for word.[2]

We seem to be on the edge of eternity. Some people are saying the same words I said concerning the method being readied today for identifying people all over the world. This method (which is already being used) will allow people to buy and sell via an identification mark or chip which will access any part of the person's life, including their bank account.

Two thousand years ago, the Bible told us such a method will be mandated at some point just after the rapture. It told us that without this mark, people will not be able to buy or sell.[3] The technology being used and developed further is called RFID (search: *human use of Radio Frequency Identification*). It's a mark on, or a chip to be implanted in, the hand. The words of warning against our taking or using this mark were given two thousand years ago; before any such technology could have entered anyone's mind.[3]

This identification method is the most frightening reality yet. It's more frightening than tornadoes, earthquakes or floods. The Bible tells us the penalty for taking this mark, "without which we will not be able to buy or sell"[3] is hell itself.[4] So many things are about to happen that are specific to the times following Jesus' rapture of His people, that it's impossible for His return not to happen in the next few… years? months? days? seconds?

For several years I studied what authors and the Bible said about the *Second Coming of Christ* and the *Rapture* (they are apparently different events). The *rapture* is the end of the Church Age when those of us who have truly believed[12] and received God's gift of eternal life will be taken up to be with the Lord in heaven, while the rest of the world experiences the *trouble* (*tribulation*) to come.[5] The *second coming* will be when those who have gone to heaven return to earth with Christ Jesus seven years later.[13] Jesus will then judge[14] and rule the earth for a thousand years, and beyond those thousand years, as God creates a brand new earth.[8]

The truth is, today many people don't believe these things. Most people haven't

taken the opportunity to study the books available on the subject. Others have read, but still don't believe we're on the edge of eternity. Some, however, see the signs of the times. They know the things happening in our world today are downright biblical.

The question is: do we have much to look forward to in life?

Yes, absolutely we do. We have something of great value to look forward to: the coming Kingdom of God.

Life in this world is a drop in the bucket when compared with eternity.

Our promise from God, once we receive His gift of life, is that we will live forever. Never-ending life. Some people panic when they consider this possibility. They see the worst of this world and think, *Why would I want to live forever?* Living forever as things are in this world might not be all that wonderful. Life in God's world, however, will be incredibly beautiful. The Lord promises an eternity filled with love, peace, joy and the beautiful things in life;[7] a brand new earth without sadness, pain or death.[8]

What if I offered the thought that eternity could be a never ending exploration of outer space (or the *new heavens*[6] once they've been created)? Or a never-ending time to get to know billions of different people and other creatures (like angels)? What about the prospect of a never ending opportunity to explore the infinitesimal workings of the particle world? Or an opportunity to get to know God person to Person?

Even within this bruised and broken world there are spectacular things to see. Nature, for instance. Hubble space photographs also give us an example of the splendor in our universe (search: *Hubble photos* and then check out the NASA photo gallery).

With all the beauty God has created, His heart has got to be gorgeous. His best has got to be better than the best this world has ever seen. The Bible tells us that God is comprised of love,[10] that He *is* love.[9] Imagine what it would be like to sit down and talk with God about all the possibilities of what that means.[11]

If we're on the edge of eternity, what will that eternity be like?

Maybe we'll be playing harps. Then again, maybe we'll be playing pianos, guitars, flutes or any other instrument we'd like to learn to play (or inventing those that haven't yet been invented). Maybe we'll have an opportunity to learn anything and everything we've never had a chance to learn in this world. Maybe we'll receive lessons on a billion different subjects.

If we had all the time in eternity and a slew of teachers available on any subject we could imagine, what would we want to learn? What could we imagine doing with such an education?

Everlasting joy. Becoming part of an eternal and beautiful work of art. I'd give

almost anything to be a part of something that spectacular.

CHAPTER THREE

Trusting God in Everything

The Bible tells us that God is trustworthy;[1] He's worth our trust. It also tells us that His ways are far different than ours.[2] God is substantially older than we are. It would make sense that His wisdom is significantly different, better, higher, wiser than ours.[3]

Because of the difficulties inherent in this world, some people picture God as a very difficult Person to please. Out of a sense of fear, they might want to get to know Him through His people rather than directly. They might want to know *about* the Lord rather than getting to know Him personally. But this is not the basis of Christianity; a relationship with God is.

Jesus didn't just claim to be the Son of God. He[4] (and other people who knew Him[5]) claimed He was and is God Himself who came down from heaven and became a human being (flesh and blood) like us.[5 & 6]

Someday we will see God face to face in the Person of Christ Jesus.[7] For the moment God is invisible.[8] This can make it difficult to find Him. The search for God, however, can be a wonderful and ever deepening journey fraught with beautiful blessings as well as some problems. Through the problems in our lives, God can create in us some exquisite internal qualities. The problems He allows can also be His way of discovering what we're truly made of (testing us[9]) or His way to help us increase our faith.[10]

When we have struggles and rely on God to help us through them our faith increases. God's reality becomes more visible. Even so, trusting God can require a kind of 'blind' faith. The results of our 'blind' faith, however, can be visible. Answered prayer can be a visible thing. God's word (the Bible) can lead to physical realities. When we find that what God says to do or not do in the Bible results in what He says it will—this can be a visible thing.

Prayer, reading the Bible, asking God which part He'd like us to read first and to help us understand what we've read, listening (by seeing if something particular comes to mind, for instance), or asking God to help us find the right book to read in a Christian bookstore; these things can result in being able to see God at work in our lives. They are important to the equation of faith.

I ask God for understanding as often as I possibly can. I ask for help in writing my songs, producing and composing them, and even such things as finding my shoes. He always answers my prayers in some good way. There are times when I seem to resist a stone wall in the process of asking God for what I think I need or want. I always find, however, that any prayers that seem unanswered are left 'unanswered' for very good reasons. I find that God is a good Father; He's worth trusting; He's trustworthy.

In some ways, my life became harder after I became a Christian. I went through some tough trials. *Trials* could be defined as problems which result in something good. Not that we have to go through tougher times as a Christian. The realities we would normally face are usually sufficient.

In reality, even though my circumstances were rough, my inward joy increased substantially, especially over time and my practice of trusting God. I was happy, very happy, even if my life seemed very difficult in some ways. As a result, people often looked at me oddly. I had no reason to be as happy as I was.

Today, I have many reasons for joy, and some reasons for not feeling joyful. Yet I am very happy and peaceful most of the time. The fruit of the Spirit (what God grows within us) is love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, gentleness, self-control and faith.[11] These things are worth having, no matter how God achieves them in us.

God's wisdom is substantial. His power and ability are also beyond compare. Relying on God during times of duress is a smart thing to do. Asking and being grateful for what God can give are very important aspects of trusting Him. Active rather than passive trust is what the Bible tells us real trust (and faith) looks like.[16] Reading the Bible in order to discover what He's said about us, our world, and what's about to happen here as well as in heaven is essential. The Bible is filled with the wisdom of God.

I have a friend who read through the New Testament in two months her first time. Then she prayerfully began reading parts of the Old Testament and then the New Testament again and then again, and again. She was so hungry for God, once she knew how to receive His gift of eternal life and saw the reality of His love, she couldn't get enough of Him and His Word. She also began praying for and telling her family about her experiences in biblical ways.[12] As a result, most of her immediate family now loves God to one degree or another, and it's only been eight months!

No matter what's happening in our lives, we can make the choice to trust God. He's the best Person we could trust in any situation. He loves us, He's powerful, and He wants us to ask (and receive from) Him, seek (and find) Him, and knock on His door (which He promises He will open).[13] He's a gentleman. He doesn't force Himself on us. But He does want us to love Him;[14] and He does want us to give Him the opportunity to show us His power, ability and trustworthiness.[15]

When we ask, seek and knock on God's door[14] we will discover, sometimes immediately, how beautiful and trustworthy He is. The truth is, He's worthy of our trust not only for this life but for the life to come. The rewards of trusting God in every situation are eternally worthwhile.

CHAPTER FOUR

Defining our Purpose—God's Reason for Creating Us

There is a verse in scripture which tells us God's reason for creating us. According to the Bible, our purpose is to bring pleasure to God.[1] The Lord loves us. This is the most important concept a person could comprehend. No matter what has happened or is happening in our lives, God cares. He loves us tremendously. In fact, the cross is a representation of the degree to which He went in order to show us His love.[2]

I believe there is a way we can fulfill our life's most compelling purpose. God draws near us when we draw near Him.[3] When we take delight in Him, He gives us the desires of our hearts.[4] The way we can bring God pleasure (delight) and ourselves God's favor is to love Him.[5] Faith is also an important part of bringing God delight.[11] Loving God, however, assumes faith. It requires believing He exists and understanding whom He truly is. Jesus told us that God is searching for those who will worship (love) Him in spirit (from the heart) and in truth (as He truly is).[12]

According to the Lord Jesus, love is the most essential part of our spiritual lives.

When asked which commandment was and is most important, Jesus' answer could easily boil down to one word: Love. He said that *the* most important thing we can do is to love God with all we are.[5] The *second* most important commandment is to love others as we love ourselves.[6] The Lord said these two things created in us the impetus for being willing to do everything God had said to do.[7]

God *is* love.[8] It would make sense that a God comprised of love would enjoy those who love Him; that He would delight in requited love. When God's love is returned, He finds great delight in us. Who wouldn't love to be loved?

This can seem surprising to people. The idea that God is a God of anger, wrath, indignation or perfectionism seems to be far more prevalent in our world. God is holy, yes. (The word *holy* means *set apart* or *consecrated* and *pure.*) And we'd do well to remember His holiness when we step outside the circle of His commandments. Even so, He is also the very definition of love.[8]

Yet God does behave in angry ways sometimes; very angry. Biblically speaking, this seems to be based on the reality that His love can be chagrinned.[13] It can be unreturned. It can even be spat upon, both figuratively and literally.

If we follow through on the thought that God is love[8] and therefore an emotional Being, we can assume that He has a heart pretty much like anyone's. How would a Being filled with love feel after He had been made fun of, treated with sarcasm, ignored, screamed at, or in some other ways had His face spat on by many people over many millennia? How would we feel? He just might be angry (as anyone would be) with those who continued to spit in His loving face.

Will we choose then to appreciate and love Eternal Love? Or will we spit in Love's face and say, "I don't need or want You in my life." If we say such a thing, we might find that Love (God) has departed from this earth (at the rapture).[9] When He does leave this earth,[10] what would those left behind be left with? This world is hard enough as it is. What would it be like without Love?

God loves us and wants to be loved in return.[5] What does it mean to "love God with all our *hearts* (emotions), *souls* (choices) *minds* (thoughts), and *strength* (physical actions)" as Jesus told us was the most important thing we could do?[5] The answer is found by reading that quotation again, substituting the words in parentheses (*or* love God with all our *emotions*, *choices*, *thoughts* and *physical actions*).

There is a reason Jesus placed the first commandment first rather than second.[6] A natural process occurs with loving God first and others second. When we love someone, we'll get to know them. When we get to know them, we'll discover what they enjoy most. When we discover what they enjoy, we will care about those things or people that bring them joy.

God loves us tremendously. More than any other pleasure, God takes great delight in us when we return His love. When we love God, we will learn to love those whom He loves. We will discover that we, and the people around us, can bring Him great joy. And we will learn about, care about and love those people because *He* loves them. Loving others becomes a natural part of loving God.

Jesus wanted us to grow in our love for God, who loves others, and by the natural process that occurs when we love Him, learn to love others as well. Real love also springs from and becomes heartfelt respect. Heartfelt respect brings about willingness to read what God has said as well as a heart to do what He has asked.

In addition, when love and respect are requited, they bring about a sweet relationship; a healthy relationship. God is an individual. He's a Person. He hopes in our love; because He loves us.

Fulfilling the most important commandment in the Bible, and thus our purpose in life[1] is to search for, love and thereby delight God with all we are. After 33 years of working toward loving God, I've discovered a wonderful thing. He's worth loving, and how.

CHAPTER FIVE

The Definitive Chapter within the Bible on Love

The most important chapter of the Bible written on the subject of love is found in the New Testament book of 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13. It is a description of what God considers to be the evidence of real love. It is based on heartfelt attitudes and loving actions.

I learned a long time ago that love from the heart must translate into love in action. I also learned that without love from the heart, the actions of love are merely rote, mechanical; similar to prostitution if you will. The lady's (or man's) heart isn't in it. She (or he) may go through all the motions that make someone feel special, but it's not love.

At the same time, unexpressed love or love without loving action is a pleasure we alone experience. It offers no benefit to the recipient of our love. Actions and expressions of love do. Heartfelt love also creates in us a desire to love well in what we say and do. Real love is both a feeling and a set of actions.

Unlike most of us human beings, God can look directly into our hearts and souls.[1] In fact, he searches the hearts and intents of the mind,[2] and He searches for those who will value Him.[3] One of the definitions of *worship* according to the dictionary is *extreme love*. The archaic definition (in some ways its origin) is *worth-ship*, or valuing the object of our affection.

If 1 Corinthians 13 is the description of love, and love is God's very nature, then we would be able to describe God using these verses.

Why don't we try it?

God is patient
God is kind
God is not envious
God is not boastful
He is not proud (*arrogant*)
He is not rude
He does not demand His own way
God is not irritable
He keeps no record of being wronged
He does not rejoice in injustice
He rejoices whenever the truth wins out
God never gives up
He never loses faith
He's always hopeful
And He always endures

4 (NLT substituting the word *love* with the words *God* and *He*.)

If Galatians Chapter 5, verse 22, is also a description of God, then we can do the same thing with this verse:

God is loving
God is joyful
God is peaceful
God is patient
God is good
God is kind
God is humble
God is faithful
God has self-control

If God is love and these verses define God's idea of what love is, isn't this a beautiful description of a wonderful Person? Wouldn't we all want to love a God like this?

Someone as powerful as our Creator who has chosen these character traits is astonishing. The fact that the God of the Bible wants to give and receive love above all other things is also astounding. I can't imagine a more beautiful God than this!

CHAPTER SIX

Why would God Require Holiness?

Some of the questions I've heard people ask are: *Why would it be important to God how I live?* or *Why would He care what I do or don't do?* Let's look at some of the possible explanations for a requirement for holiness coming from the God of the Bible, who also deeply loves us.

I believe there are many good reasons God has chosen holiness. Over the years, I've learned some of those reasons. I'm certain there are many other motivations for holiness I have not yet discovered. I've found throughout my lifetime that there are always good reasons to do or not do any particular thing. Sometimes I understand those reasons fully; other times I have to act on what I've been shown by faith. (I won't necessarily jump off a building, for instance, because I don't fully comprehend the laws of gravitational physics.)

Over the years, I've had many of my questions about God answered as I've sought Him in prayer and reading His Word. Some reasons for holiness I've learned by making mistakes; others I've learned by making good choices based on obedience. (I've heard it said that we're either a shining example of what to do or a horrible warning of what not to do.)

As I've sought God over the years, He has opened my eyes to some of His reasons for caring about holiness. I've grown to understand that God's Word is not based on *arbitrary* (whimsical or subjective) laws and instructions. Instead, I've come to believe His holiness is a very big part of whom He is for deep, loving and understandable reasons.

If we were to think it through, what would life be like if our powerful Creator (the God of absolute power) refused holiness, purity, love and a desire to teach His followers how to treat others with dignity? If we read the Bible carefully and prayerfully, I think we'll find that God's holiness is based on love and protection.

God is the very definition of the strongest form of love there is: sacrificial love. Why then would He require holiness and purity on our part? Why would He ask us to follow the *'spirit'* of the law (the intentions and heart of His instructions) over the *'letter'* of the law (perfectionism in following what's written to the exclusion of love and mercy)?[4]

God has given us His wisdom within His word. He knows what will happen if we choose to close our ears to His instructions, much as we understand that there will be consequences for what our children might wish to do should they ignore our warnings. Sometimes we also must *lay down the law*. Whether or not our children understand our reasons, we do have them.

Many of the consequences we face as God's children are written into the laws of nature. Some of God's instructions in the Bible we may not fully comprehend. Others were at one time without understanding and have since become clear (such as the Old Testament's dietary laws and those laws which make sense now that we understand that there are dangerous consequences associated with some ancient practices (i.e., germs, which were unknown at the time the Bible was written).

The reality that God is holy can bring comfort to those who understand what it's like to live with unholy behavior. I've known a number of sources of such behavior within my lifetime. Most of us have. I've heard of several instances where unholy behavior had broken a person to the edge or beyond the point of suicide. Words can kill. Actions can most certainly kill. Whether or not a person is driven to such a point, words and actions can definitely lead to devastation. Unholy behavior is destructive to someone somewhere.

Purity is a beautiful thing. It is based on love. A person may choose to follow the instructions of God out of love for Him or others. Jesus told us that all of the law and the prophets (the entire Word of God) are fulfilled in learning and practicing love.[1] Perfect love casts out fear.[2] Love makes certain to treat people as they need to be treated. This includes both merciful love and tough love.

Walking with a God who had chosen any other kind of heart would be downright frightening. In many ways we have an example of this today. To quote the Bible, "Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded [their] minds…"[3 (NLT)] That's right. Satan is our example of living life with an unholy 'god.' This biblical reality is providing us each day with a severe lesson in the consequences of living under an unholy hierarchy.

While God is in ultimate control, the devil has been given this world temporarily[5] as a "horrible warning" of what life would be like should anyone but the God of biblical love be in ultimate control. We will move on from this world. Eternity will provide those of us who know Christ Jesus with a very different example—the shining example of God's rule.

Why would God, who is love, require holiness? The quality of our eternal lives depends on it. I, for one, am very glad God is holy and pure. I'm glad He requires our holiness toward Him and each other, particularly when it comes to our eternal lives. There He has promised to grant us the ability to be entirely holy. I believe life would be much more difficult should He choose otherwise.

It is crucial to understand that God's level of holiness is complete and His reasons for requiring holiness are substantial. According to the Bible, the consequences for our choices in life are eternal.

Nonetheless, God loves us. He wants what's best for us. When it all breaks down, this is God's heart and reason for holiness: Pure, deep, real and holy love.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Life is a Gigantic School

I've worked with someone who's never been to school. She was raised in a country where education was possible, but not mandatory. Her family was poor and her mother, and then the woman who took her in after her parents passed away, required her help.

She spent much of her young life looking over her sister's shoulder in order to grasp the concepts of reading until she learned, as her sister did her homework, how to read and write in her native language. But there was always something in her heart that wished she could have gone to school and learned the things we sometimes take for granted. She never had the opportunity.

But then again…

Her life was hard—very, very hard. And as she survived with her love intact, and while calling out to God for help, she learned plenty. She's now in life's post graduate school.

We are all in The School of Life in some way and at some point. Some of us are just beginning to learn (in preschool); others are in elementary. Some are in Jr. High or High School; others are in college.

My friend, with all she has experienced in life, is very much a post graduate student. She's currently working on her PhD in Spiritual Reality. Me? I think I earned a double PhD in Religious Error before I knew Jesus in truth. And I do believe I'm about to receive my degree in Spiritual Truth.

What stage of education in the School of Hard Knocks are we in? Are we tiny and new; in need of crying out to our Father God? Have we learned the basics of reading the word? Are we currently working on understanding deeper spiritual concepts? Or are we about to receive a diploma or a doctorate degree in understanding God's heart?

This life is hard. Even if some people think we have it made, we may be in deep distress without much of a 'cause.' Many very famous and wealthy people are miserable despite their earnings, power, and fame or even being surrounded by adoring people. Some of us are happy despite our poverty.

An education at the best university in the world wouldn't necessarily provide what a street education might. Most of us in the U.S. are able to go to school. All of us, anywhere, go to the School of Life, at least for a short time.

I've never actually been to a graduate school. In fact, I've never taken more than a couple of courses in college. Even so, I've learned some very valuable lessons here on

this planet; and this world seems to be made for such lessons.

How many classes, from preschool on, does it take to graduate with a doctorate degree? How many painstaking hours? How many headaches? I know I couldn't count my own. Few of us truly enjoy learning; at least I've had a hard time with it.

This life is a gigantic school. We all seem to be majoring in the value of love and the consequences of unholy behavior. In the grand picture of eternity, something awaits us which we're only beginning to understand by the time we graduate. Our own personal *graduation day* will either be upon our departure from this earth in 'death' or upon our mutual departure from this earth at the rapture (if we're among those who make it to heaven at the rapture).

From the look of things, I believe some of us may see that day. What we do and how we respond to the Instructor in our School of Life (God Almighty), will determine what we do for all eternity. If we make it into heaven at all, our responses in this life will determine whether we receive a *job in God's Corporation (His Kingdom)* doing something relatively mundane or something absolutely spectacular. Everyone will have a life after graduation. Each of us in heaven will be doing something for all eternity.

To receive honor from God when we arrive in heaven, it's imperative to do things His way, no matter what grades other people give us in this world. A 4.0 grade point average according to God might provide us with a failing grade with other people. That's okay. I'll take it. I'd rather succeed with God for eternity. I'd rather receive an excellent grade on life's ultimate Final Exam than on a midterm paper that won't matter much in the long run.

This life, when compared with eternity, is a drop in the bucket. Is $1 in the hand really worth $10,000,000 in the bush? This is what we're looking at upon graduation from this world's school. God's stamp of approval (His A+) will last for eternity. Other people's stamps of approval might last a few years. If I was a gambling woman, I'd say God's smile is worth the risk of the frowns of others—any and all others if it takes that.

In life's school, we have many choices. What electives are we choosing to take? Are we opting for easy electives that won't matter much in the long run? Or are we choosing courses that will be valuable in eternity: *How to Love God* 101, 102; *How to Love Others* 101, 102; *How to Be Sure Jesus is Truly My Lord* 101, 102; *How to Be a Disciple of Christ* 201, 202, etc.

Are we ready for this earth's Graduation Day? What have we made perfect by our practice? God is a truly just God.[1] He will not abandon anyone who trusts in Him,[2] no matter how we might be treated by anyone else in this world.

CHAPTER EIGHT

Graduation Day

One day as I was preparing to make a music video that required a photograph of stars in the night sky, I typed into my search engine the words "photos of the stars" (as I recommended earlier). What came up was not what I expected. I anticipated photos taken from earth of what we see when we look up into the skies on a clear, dark night: a sweeping array of white sparkles.

To my great delight, what I found were Hubble photographs. Oh my stars! Have you seen these things? Thousands of photographs are now available for our viewing. They are public domain photos made available through NASA and STscI. What an amazing sight they are to behold. Man oh man, "what is mankind that You (God) are mindful of us!"[1]

Believe me I created a music video using them.

The photographs of galaxy fields, nebulae and various other space anomalies are excruciatingly beautiful. Some of them are done with infrared or ultraviolet photography which creates the effect of color where it doesn't actually exist. I didn't know this at first. Nonetheless, God's creation is phenomenal; more so than anyone had ever thought before the invention of telescopes like the Hubble.

Then there's the beauty of earthly nature. I've always been a mountain girl. As a young woman, I spent most of my summers and some of my winter days and nights in the woods, on lakes, near rivers and four-wheeling throughout the various areas available for such things. It was the most precious time I knew—away from city stresses and in the presence of God's glorious nature. And glorious it is.

Today, we have access via internet, vehicle, horseback, hiking or plane travel to almost any part of the world, and apparently beyond. I have created music videos based on photographs of places I've never actually seen. Some of these places are unbelievably stunning (some of them are not to be believed because they are digitally enhanced). But I've personally seen purple, pink, yellow and white sunburst sunsets and some of the most spectacular scenery I could describe.

God's ability to create is unbelievable. His creation, it would seem, also gives us a clue as to the nature of His heart. If this world (which is only His 'footstool') and the heavens (which are only His 'throne')[2] are this spectacular, what on earth is His heart like? It's a question I'd love to have Him answer. It's something I want to know. He's someone I want to know.

In addition to the grandeur of the earth below and the heavens above, there are the intricately beautiful workings within a person's body,[3] the incredible design and

complexity of an eye for example, or even a single cell. There are also the invisible and infinitely astonishing workings of atomic particles. Believe it or not, some scientists today tell us that quarks (sub-atomic particles) and their quanta are *intelligent!* They are participatory and interactive. The more we delve into particle science (with the little I personally know and have heard), the more amazing we find these worlds within worlds within our world.

What kind of God do we worship? Or not?

How could I not want to know this God?

In addition, within the wonders of nature, we have the beauties of a meadow filled with wildflowers and pine trees, most of which are rarely, if ever, seen by human eyes; the scents of which are carried by the breezes probably for God's own pleasure (or that of a fawn or fox).

God's heart—as reflected in the sunsets, the mountains, the many varieties of flora and fauna, and the incredible beauty of the heavens, the particles, and each and every human being—is spectacular.

With all the beautiful things we can see and know in this world, the Bible tells us that it hasn't even entered our hearts and minds what He has prepared for those who love Him.[4]

This School of Life we're in, the School of Hard Knocks, isn't always pleasant. School often isn't. It's hard work. But the work is worthwhile if it leads to the dream job of an eternal lifetime in a place to beat all the corporations on earth combined. I, for one, want to work myself serious (rather than silly) to get the best degree I can in order to participate in an eternal life that is definitely worth living.

CHAPTER NINE

Thanksgiving in July

I have a tradition each year on Thanksgiving Day. Sometimes, however, Thanksgiving comes in July (or June or February or September). My tradition is to write out a list of the situations, things and people for whom I am grateful. Then I pray through this list thanking God for each item; each act of love; each individual.

What could we put on a *Gratitude* or *Thanksgiving List*?

Our family?
Our best friend?
God Himself?
Our home?
Our car?
Our pets?
Our health?
Our life?

What other things, people or attitudes could we be grateful for?

My heart loves to feel gratitude. It wasn't always easy for me to be grateful. I had to work hard to accomplish gratitude in my life. I had to learn to find gratitude in my heart for myself. I had to find gratitude for the little bit of health I have (I have many physical problems). I've also had to practice apologizing to God for the ungrateful attitudes I've had.

I have a friend who thanks God for everything that goes wrong in her life, as well as what goes right. Her life has turned around partly because she's grateful for what God doesn't do for her as well as what He does. She loves Him, and she'll take the 'bad' along with the good. Her example to me has been a wonderful part of my healing from ungrateful attitudes.

Many of us find it hard to be thankful. Ungratefulness can be a damaging habit. It can create a heart of anxiety, agitation, anger, and depression. I still have to work hard to fight off ungratefulness. It takes my constant effort and practice.

Creating a list of difficult things to be grateful for is one way to generate heartfelt gratitude no matter what's happening in our lives. God may even turn our lives around as a result.

What could we put on a *Gratitude-for-Anything List*?

Do we have no job?

Do we have no food?
No money?
No home?
No car?
Do we have no loving family?
Are our friends (or enemies) unkind?

Every one of us has difficulties of some sort. Each of us could make such a list. We could list both the good things and difficult things we have gone through or are going through. We could thank God for all that is on our list.

Why thank Him for *all* things?[1] He loves us. And it's part of our schooling. It'll be worth it in the long run.

CHAPTER TEN

Practice Makes Perfect

We all perfect whatever we practice. If we want to learn to play a musical instrument, for instance, we have to learn the hard way. We have to make everyone in the house agitated as we repeat, again and again, without any skill at first, the art in which we wish to achieve excellence.

Practice perfects whatever we practice.

What, then, are we perfecting? Are we practicing good? Evil? Making fun of people? Manipulation? Kindness? Helping others in some way? Utilizing good character traits? Bad ones? Whatever we practice, that's what we will perfect.

If we practice lying, for instance, we will most likely become excellent liars. Everyone on earth may believe our lies. We may attain much; maybe even the 'adoration' of people (true adoration would be based on reality). Would God be fooled by our lies? The Bible tells us He is not.[1] Will we attain accolades in the present world? Maybe. Will we attain things? Sometimes. Will we attain an eternally blessed state? The Bible says we will not.[2] In fact, it says whatever we give we will receive back to ourselves in abundance.[3] It also tells us whatever we plant (whether good or evil), we will harvest[4] (what goes around, comes around).

Jesus told us to practice what He said to do (and thus make Him truly our Lord).[5] The things God told us to do can bring great blessing, especially eternally, but cannot be accomplished overnight. They require learning how to do them and having a motivation for doing them which creates within and around us the results God appreciates.

Achieving an outcome of heartfelt love for God (as well as love for others) requires developing the skill through perseverant practice. Biblical love is a habit we can cultivate. It is something we can achieve an excellence in via: listening to our Instructor God; reading His *how-to manual* (the Bible); continuous repetition; and a lot of trial and error. No one can learn without making mistakes, but God is an excellent Teacher.[6] He will help us succeed when we ask for His help.[7]

If we take steps in any particular direction, we will eventually arrive at the destination we are heading toward. Evil is a destination. Good is a destination. So is biblical love.

At first, we may not be able to love well. Probably not. Few people are born with the innate ability to do much of anything well. Most of us have to work hard to achieve anything of value. Internal qualities must also be developed. What we practice internally, we will also perfect.

God is a Person who appreciates the heart and mind of a man or woman.[8] He is not impressed with appearances as we often are.[9] Internal qualities are what He wants to accomplish in, for and with us.[10] Such things are not easy to attain. They sometimes require very difficult circumstances.[11]

The Bible tells us that trials (difficulties) create in us some rare and beautiful internal qualities.[12] They are the 'gold refined in the fires' of adversity.[13] We can become eternally rich via this internal gold.[12] But according to Revelation, Chapter 3, this internal gold must be purchased from God. It requires a cost.[12]

Trouble is certain to come within this world.[14] Most of us would probably prefer our troubles held some sort of reward rather than merely the losses usually associated with them. In my estimation, troubles in this life have a very good purpose. They produce a strong set of emotions. Those emotions can be honed to bring out in us sweet flavors, or bitter ones. It depends on how we practice responding.

Nothing we could own in this world will survive the final fires.[15] When we arrive on the other side of life, only one thing will remain as a result of this world. Only our hearts and the way we affect the hearts of others will survive the end of this world system and the coming Tribulation. Even our bodies will be rebuilt to last forever.[16]

When this world system comes to an end and we are given our new resurrected bodies, all that will remain of our lives in this world is what we've become inwardly. We *will* have new eternal bodies, just like Jesus did following His resurrection.[18] Our hearts, however, will be the most important part of what we've helped develop within our lives.

We each have the ability to practice perfecting the inward beauties God hopes we will attain and then pass on to others.[10] We also have been given the choice to practice perfecting the inward qualities God doesn't want us to achieve.[20] This would be a great waste of our once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

What then will we choose to become? Which qualities will we perfect? Only those that are worthwhile are worth our time and effort. If practice makes perfect, what are we perfecting in our lives?

According to the Bible, it's a question everyone will have to answer some day before the Lord Jesus.[19] What answer do we want to present before Him in that day?

We have the choice to make almost anything of our lives. We make the decisions and take the steps that lead us to our destination. Which destination will we choose?

CHAPTER ELEVEN

We are Valuable to God

We all have something of great value to offer God. This is true whether we're poor or rich. According to the Bible, God owns everything on earth and in heaven.[15] What then could we give God when He already owns it all? We can give Him ourselves. We can give Him our love. We can give Him our hearts, souls, minds and strength. We can give Him our past, our present and our future. We can give Him our honor, our respect, and our hopes and dreams. We can ask Him to help us love Him with all we are.

These are gifts we have to grant which God does not force us to give Him against our will. He has given us a choice in the matter. Our hearts of love and respect for Him are ours to grant or withhold. The most valuable offering we have to bring God is not found in our wallet or purse. It's found in our hearts.

Not that we can't give God such things as money. Our tithes and offerings are a huge part of our love for God and other people. If we want to be responsible in our giving (stewardship), we will check out a ministry to see what it does for God and others as we give. Good ministries couldn't survive without our financial support.
Jesus told us that wherever our treasures are, that is where our hearts will also be.[1]

This same verse, however, tells us not to lay up treasures on earth, where moths eat and rust corrupts, but to lay up treasures in heaven.[2] This requires making important (and giving offerings toward) those things that will survive after the rapture: God's heart, other people's hearts and our own; particularly in regard to eternal matters (teaching others to follow Christ's example[17]).

God is powerful enough to do anything He wants to do in and through us. We don't have to worry about the things God might need which we do not have the ability to give Him. What we can all give Him is our hearts. Our love and respect are gifts God refuses to

CONCLUSION

Passionate Compassion—Pass It On

Learning to love God and others requires a certain amount of honest, heartfelt compassion. The art of being able to notice, feel, understand and respond to someone else's state of emotion, is a beautiful work.

God's heart is filled with compassion.[1] He knows what it's like for us to have to wander through this world[2] in search of meaning and a hope and a future.[3] He knows because He was tempted in all ways like we are; yet without doing anything wrong,[4] God has gone through many of the things we have.[5] He's done this through His flesh and blood, Christ Jesus.[6]

Developing and perfecting deep and real compassion is a difficult endeavor. We have to lay aside our own needs and problems and focus on what's happening to others or within the heart of God, putting first things first.

God wants to produce compassion in us. He wants us to love Him. He also wants us to love and hold compassion for other people, animals and the earth we've been given. He gave us a slew of instructions on how to care for Him and other people. Even the fields planted with various crops held the merciful love of God.

Such a compassionate God, it would follow, cares about whom we are becoming and what we are choosing to do in order to prepare for eternity. He cares, because He loves us.

Someday, God will rule our lives through His Son Jesus. The Lord Jesus will be the ultimate world ruler; the King of kings and Lord of lords,[7] as the bible says. He will offer us a world as yet unparalleled.[8] A world where "the lion will lie down with the lamb;" "the child will play at the viper's hole;" "lions will eat grass like an ox;" and "nothing will harm in all [His] holy mountain (His world)."[9]

He will offer us a chance to live without struggle.[9]

Today, that's not the case. Struggle abounds. And the trouble to come (the Tribulation) seems to be near the beginning stages. Today, we have to struggle to find God among the many varying opinions about God. And most of us have to bear with some very difficult realities.

Don't give up. Help other people not to give up if you can. The life to come is worth this life of trouble. Read what God said in His word (the Bible) and pray, asking God for all you need in Jesus' name.[10] He hears such prayers[11] and will honor your concern for what He has said. God loves us.[12] Deeply, from the heart and filled with passionate compassion.

He numbers (counts) the very hairs on our heads. And He cares when a sparrow falls to the ground. How much more does He care for us?[13]

Today, while we still have the opportunity, it's time to open our hearts and receive what God has to offer in Jesus' name. The Lord is about to rapture His people; and when He does, He will bring with Him either beautiful realities—or very great trouble.

If we love Him, pray and listen, I think we'll discover His compassion is awesome; and that God Himself is wonderful. Love is spectacular. God is a God of deep, real, unselfish and compassionate love.

The Lord God is worth the time, effort, communication, and practice it takes to get to know Him. He's a great Friend; and an excellent Father.[14]

Love is worth all that we could ever go through in this life.

This life is very short when compared with eternity. Don't give up in your search. God is there. Just do your best and call on
Him in Jesus' name. Read the New Testament as quickly as possible; and pray, asking God to give you His gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Then ask Him to be Lord (boss) of your life.

God Himself will show anyone who asks Him *His* way to love Him; *His* way to find Him, quickly, before the rapture occurs and our time is gone.

You are invited to print, copy or send this booklet **in it's entirety and without modification only** and give it to your friends.

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5. Revelation 4:1
6. 2 Peter 3:13
7. Revelation 21:18-21
8. Revelation 21:4
9. 1 John 4:8
10. 1 John 4:16
11. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
12. Matthew 7:21-28
13. Luke 17:34-35 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18
14. Matthew 24 & 25:31-46

Chapter Three

1. Psalm 111:7
2. Isaiah 55:8-9
3. Isaiah 11:2
4. John 8:58 John 5:18
5. John 1:1-4 & 14 John 20:28 Colossians 1:15, 17 & 19
6. Hebrews 4:15
7. Philippians 2:10 John 5:22-27
8. Colossians 1:15
9. Proverbs 17:3 2 Chronicles 16:9
10. 1 Peter 1:7
11. Galatians 5:22
12. 1 Peter 3:1-2 John 6:44
13. Luke 11:9-13
14. Matthew 22:37 Mark 12:30 Luke 10:27
15. Psalm 34:8 Psalm 37:7 Psalm 46:10
16. James 2:18 Hebrews 10:35-36

Chapter Four

1. Revelation 4:11
2. John 15:13 1 Thessalonians 5:10 Romans 5:8
3. James 4:8
4. Psalm 37:4
5. Mark 12:30
6. Matthew 22:39
7. Matthew 22:40
8. 1 John 4:8 1 John 4:16
9. 1 Thessalonians 4:17
10. 2 Thessalonians 2:7 (This verse is said to refer to the Spirit of God)
11. Hebrews 11:6
12. John 4:23
13. Hosea

Chapter Five

1. 1 Samuel 16:7
2. Hebrews 4:12
3. Psalm 14:2 Psalm 53:2
4. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Chapter Six

1. Matthew 22:37-40
2. 1 John 4:18
3. 2 Corinthians 4:4
4. Romans 7:6 Matthew 12:7
5. Matthew 4:8-9

Chapter Seven

1. Psalm 9:16
2. Psalm 91:14 Isaiah 49:23

Chapter Eight

1. Psalm 8:4 Psalm 144:3 Hebrews 2:6
2. Isaiah 66:1
3. Psalm 139
4. 1 Corinthians 2:9

Chapter Nine

1. Ephesians 5:20

Chapter Ten

1. Proverbs 19:5
2. Proverbs 19:9
3. Luke 6:38
4. Galatians 6:7
5. Matthew 7:21-28
6. Matthew 23:8-9
7. Luke 11:9-13
8. Deuteronomy 6:4-5
9. 1 Samuel 16:7
10. Galatians 5:22
11. Romans 5:3-4
12. Daniel 12:10 Revelation 3:15-18
13. John 15:3 Romans 5:3-5

Chapter Ten Cont'd

14. John 16:33
15. 1 Corinthians 3:12-15
16. 1 Corinthians 15:53
17. Revelation 21:1
18. Matthew 28:9-10
19. John 5:22 and 5:27
20. Galatians 5:19-20

Chapter Eleven

1. Matthew 6:20
2. Matthew 6:19
3. John 8:58
4. John 10:18
5. 1 Corinthians 2:7-8
   Acts 2:22-24
   Colossians 2:13-15
   Ephesians 2:15-17
6. Ephesians 3:18
7. John 15:13
8. Ephesians 2:16
   James 4:4
9. Romans 5:8
10. John 19:1
11. Matthew 27:30
    Mark 15:19
12. John 19:2
13. John 19:34
14. Philippians 2:10
15. Psalm 50:10
16. Malachi 3:10
17. Matthew 7:21-27 and Matthew 28:19-20

Conclusion

1. Exodus 34:5 Matthew 9:36
2. Matthew 4
3. Jeremiah 29:11-13
4. Hebrews 4:14-16
5. Hebrews 4:14-16
   Matthew 8:24
   Matthew 8:20
   Luke 9:58
6. John 1:1-4 and 1:14
7. Revelation 1:5
8. Revelation 21
9. Isaiah 65:25
10. John 14:13
11. John 14:14
12. 1 John 4:7-10
13. Luke 12:6
14. John 1:12-13

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